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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A



VINCE HERNANDEZ
JORDAN GUNDERSON
CHARLIE MOK
TEDDORO GONZALEZ
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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

ASSASSINS



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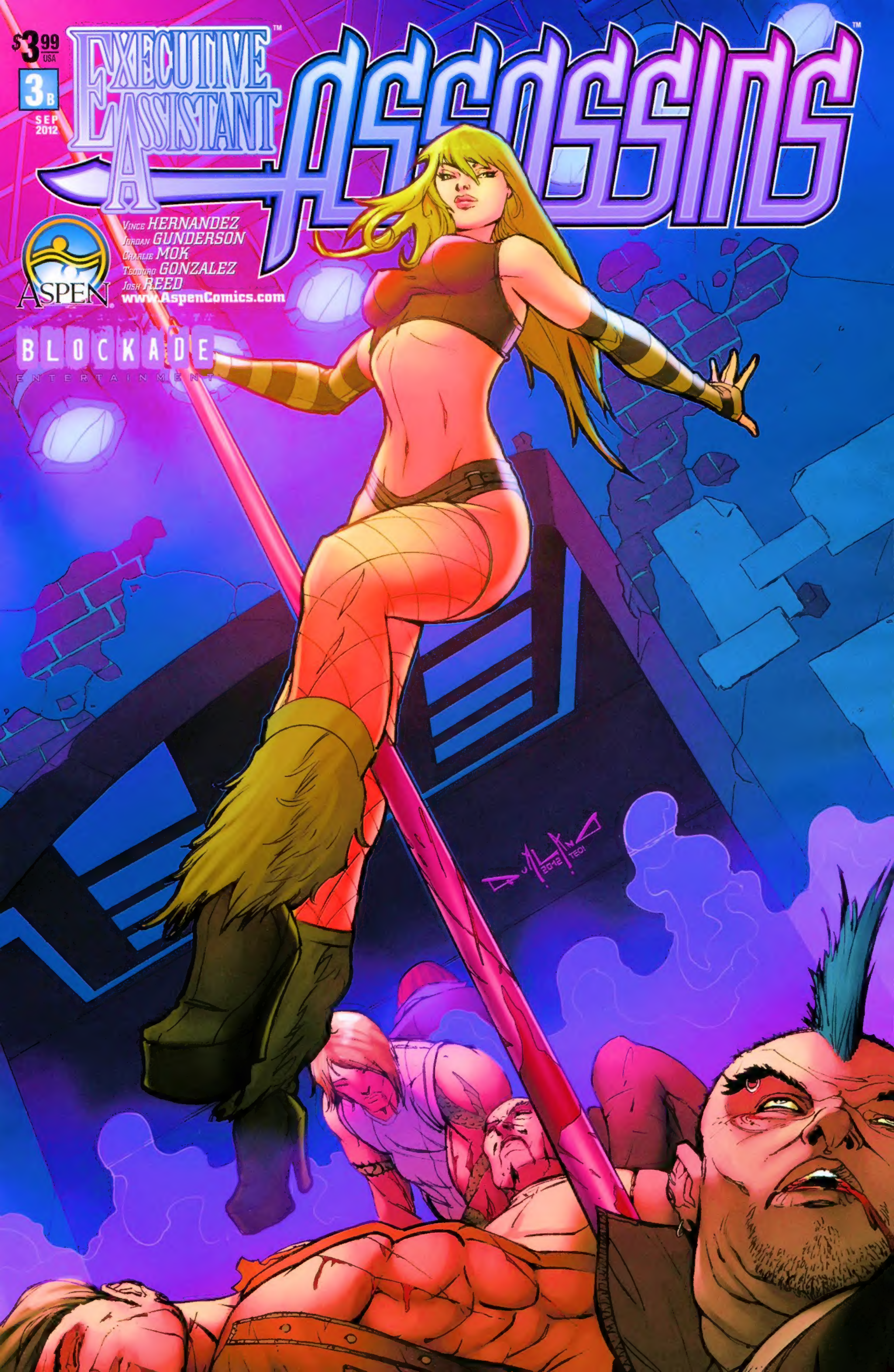
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The story so far...

The withdrawals from her past life, as well as the demons within have made Lily's present as tumultuous as ever. Yet, a CIA agent with the codename Cope has helped the once-deadly Executive Assistant regain part of her edge--as the danger to her life continues to grow. Mazutsu, the executive assistant-murdering oil tycoon has seen fit to issue Lily's permanent termination--a threat not to be taken lightly by a man known for always getting his wish...

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS

LIFE AFTER DEATH

PART 3 OF 3

WRITER

VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS

JORDAN GUNDERSON

DIGITAL INKS

CHARLIE MOK

COLORS

TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING

JOSH REED



A: DIRECT EDITION
ALEX KONAT
NEI RUFFINO



B: DIRECT EDITION
PASQUALE QUALANO
TEODORO GONZALEZ



C: FAN EXPO CANADA
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PETER STEIGERWALD

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED
Marketing Assistant: INDIA COSPER Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS Office Coordinator: ERICK RAYMUNDO Dock Jumper: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

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SO, YOU'VE KICKED ONE ADDICTION, MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU START IN ON THAT ONE.

SHUT IT, COPE.



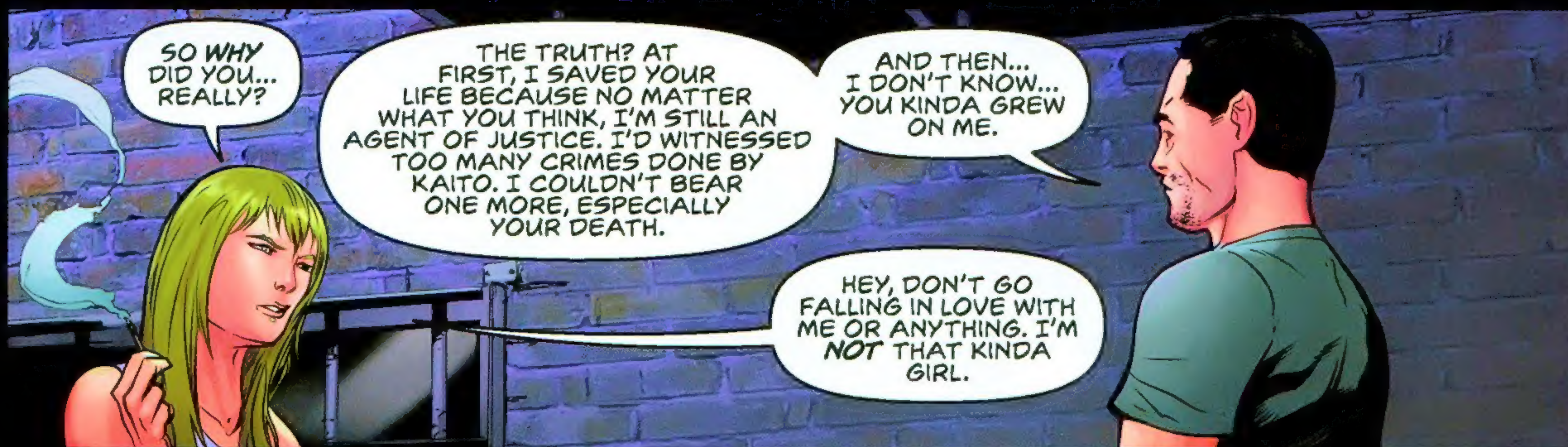
HEY...



...I APPRECIATE YOU HELPING ME GET CLEAN.

THE LEAST I COULD DO.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.



SO WHY DID YOU... REALLY?

THE TRUTH? AT FIRST, I SAVED YOUR LIFE BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK, I'M STILL AN AGENT OF JUSTICE. I'D WITNESSED TOO MANY CRIMES DONE BY KAITO. I COULDN'T BEAR ONE MORE, ESPECIALLY YOUR DEATH.

AND THEN... I DON'T KNOW... YOU KINDA GREW ON ME.

HEY, DON'T GO FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME OR ANYTHING. I'M NOT THAT KINDA GIRL.

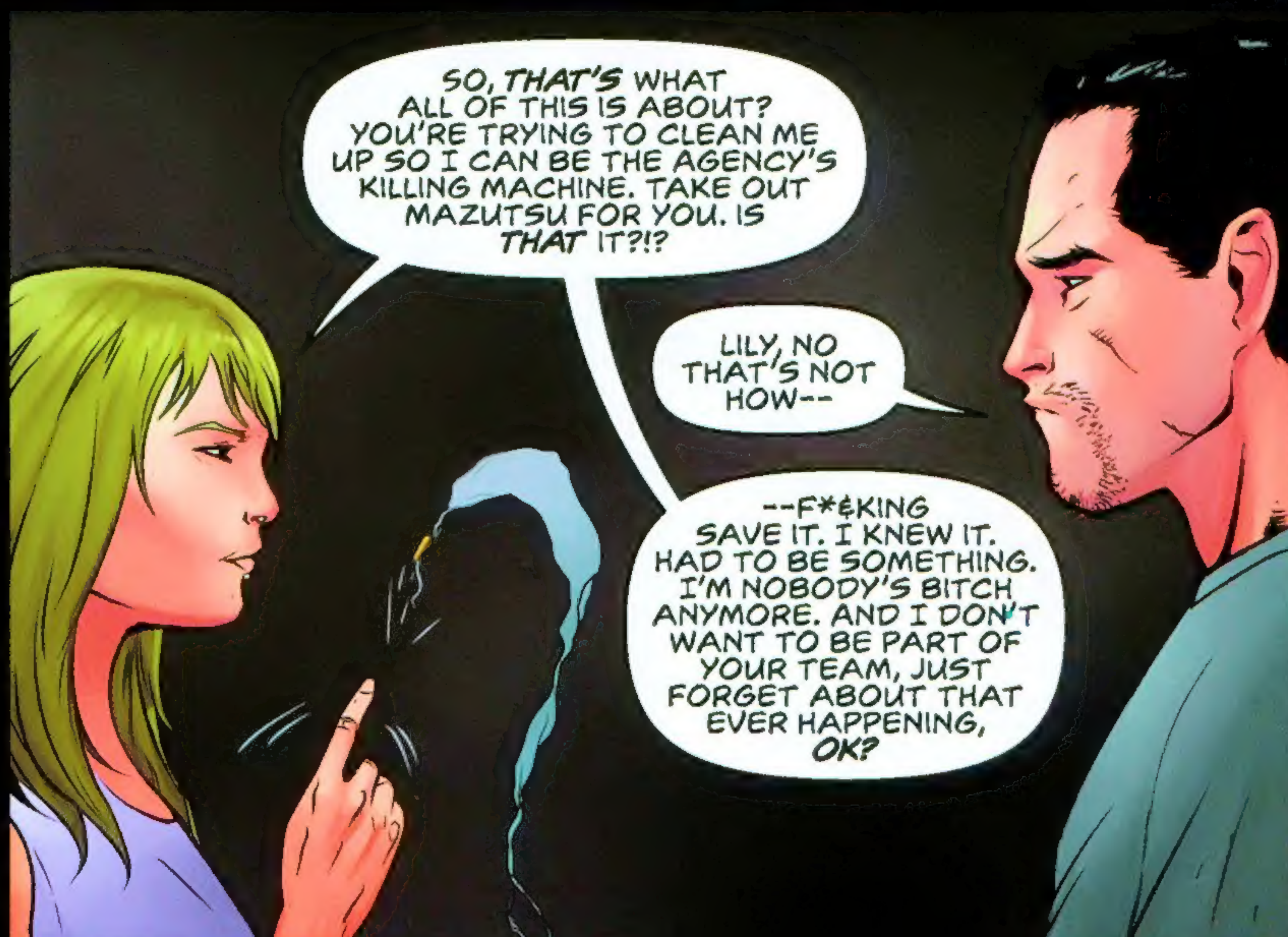


HA, SHUT IT.

NO, REALLY, YOU'RE NOT SO BAD AFTER YOU GET PAST THE TOUGH OUTER SHELL.

I THINK YOU CAN BECOME SOMETHING GOOD FOR A CHANGE, AND SO DOES THE AGENCY. THAT WAS THEM ON THE PHONE.

WHAT?



SO, THAT'S WHAT ALL OF THIS IS ABOUT? YOU'RE TRYING TO CLEAN ME UP SO I CAN BE THE AGENCY'S KILLING MACHINE. TAKE OUT MAZUTSU FOR YOU. IS THAT IT?!

LILY, NO THAT'S NOT HOW--

--F*CKING SAVE IT. I KNEW IT. HAD TO BE SOMETHING. I'M NOBODY'S BITCH ANYMORE. AND I DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF YOUR TEAM, JUST FORGET ABOUT THAT EVER HAPPENING, OK?

SAHI, CHIBA
PREFECTURE.
JAPAN.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS, BUT
WHY?

I CANNOT
EXPLAIN, IT IS TOO
DANGEROUS YOU
KNOWING.

HARU
AND YOU MUST
BE PREPARED TO
LEAVE IN THE MORNING.
I HAVE SEEN TO THE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
YOUR DEPARTURE...
AND WHEN THE TIME
IS RIGHT-- I WILL
REJOIN YOU
BOTH.

COME WITH US NOW.
IF YOU ARE IN DANGER,
WHO WILL PROTECT YOU?
IF SOMETHING WERE TO
HAPPEN TO YOU--

--NOTHING WILL
HAPPEN TO ME, I
PROMISE--

--YOU...

...ARE
CORRECT.
NOTHING WILL
HAPPEN TO
YOU, MR.
TARVER.

WHAT
DO YOU
WA--

--LOOK AT
MY FACE...

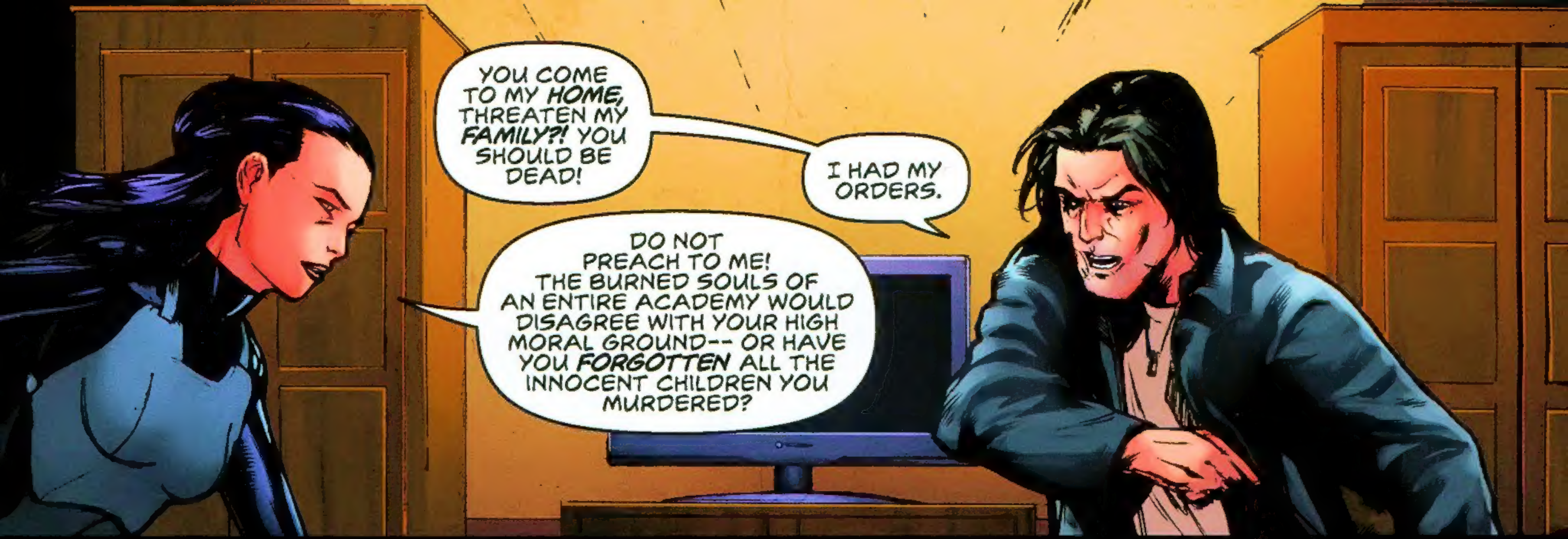
...AND YOU
WILL KNOW
WHY I AM
HERE.

LILAC?!?

SATOMI--
TAKE HARU
AND GO!

BUT, WHO--

--NOW!



YOU COME TO MY HOME, THREATEN MY FAMILY?! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!

I HAD MY ORDERS.

DO NOT PREACH TO ME! THE BURNED SOULS OF AN ENTIRE ACADEMY WOULD DISAGREE WITH YOUR HIGH MORAL GROUND-- OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALL THE INNOCENT CHILDREN YOU MURDERED?



AS DO I!



UNNGH!

YOU'VE ALREADY TRIED BEFORE! IT DIDN'T END WELL FOR YOU.

I'LL... UNNGH... KILL YOU...

YOU DON'T... UNNGH... KNOW...

...ME!

AGGGGGH!



CRASH

AHHH!

DO YOU
THINK THIS IS
A GAME?

YOU RISK
THE CHERISHED
POSSESSIONS OF
YOUR LIFE AS IF THEY
WERE PIECES ON A
CHESSBOARD.

STAY AWAY
FROM HIM!

FATHER!

SATOMI!! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING?!
STAY BEHIND ME!
I WILL PROTECT
YOU!



YOU KNOW
NOTHING OF
AN EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT...



...WE DO NOT
HESITATE.

NO!

BANG
BANG





SATOMI!
HARU!

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!

IT IS NOT
WHAT I HAVE
DONE, IT WAS THE
FATE *YOU* CHOSE
THROUGH YOUR
MISDEEDS.

YOU CANNOT
HIDE FROM THE
SINS OF YOUR
PAST.

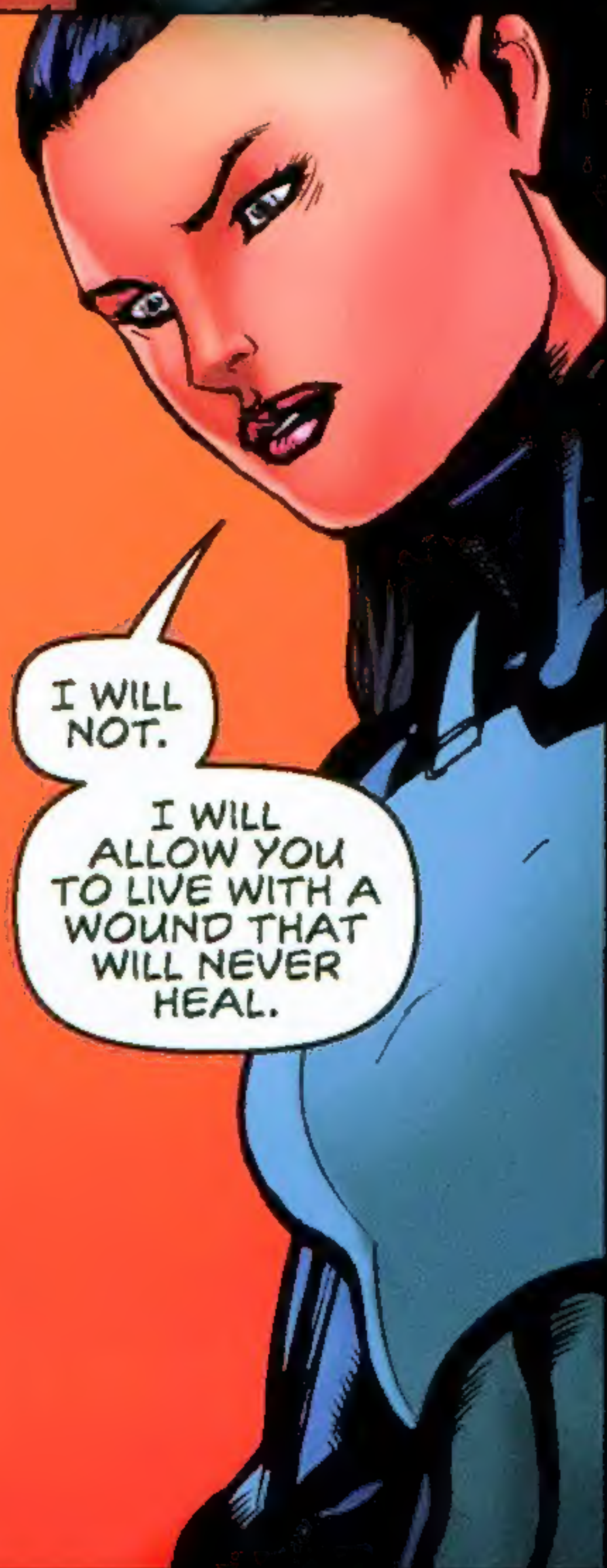


THEY WERE
MY WORLD. WITHOUT
THEM... YOU MAY AS
WELL KILL ME.



I WILL
NOT.

I WILL
ALLOW YOU
TO LIVE WITH A
WOUND THAT
WILL NEVER
HEAL.



PERHAPS IT
WILL SWAY YOUR
FUTURE CHOICES...
AND YOUR *LOYALTIES*,
FROM THIS POINT
FORWARD.





HEY.

LISTEN...

DON'T WORRY,
I'M GATHERING MY
THINGS AND WE CAN
GO OUR SEPARATE
WAYS.

...I KNOW
YOU MEANT
WELL EARLIER, I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
JUMPED ON YOUR
CASE LIKE I
DID.

I'M JUST
TIRED OF BEING
PULLED EVERY WHICH
WAY, NEVER ONCE MAKING
THE CHOICE ON MY OWN.
MY FUTURE'S ALWAYS
BEEN DECIDED
FOR ME.

I WASN'T
TRYING TO DECIDE
YOUR FUTURE, LILY. I
JUST WANTED YOU TO
KNOW THERE ARE OTHER
OPTIONS BESIDES GOING
BACK TO THE LIFE YOU
KNEW BEFORE.

I... KNOW.

YOU'VE SAVED
ME IN A LOT OF
WAYS COPE.

IT HASN'T GONE
UNNOTICED.

IT'S JUST...
I HAVE TRUST
ISSUES. AND I KNOW
THAT'S CLICHÉ, BUT IN
MY PREVIOUS LINE OF
WORK I THINK YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND WHERE
IT'S COMING
FROM.

I UNDERSTAND.
BUT DO YOU **REALLY**
THINK YOU'RE SAFER
NOW ON YOUR
OWN?

WELL...

...I'M NOT
REALLY ON MY
OWN, AM I?

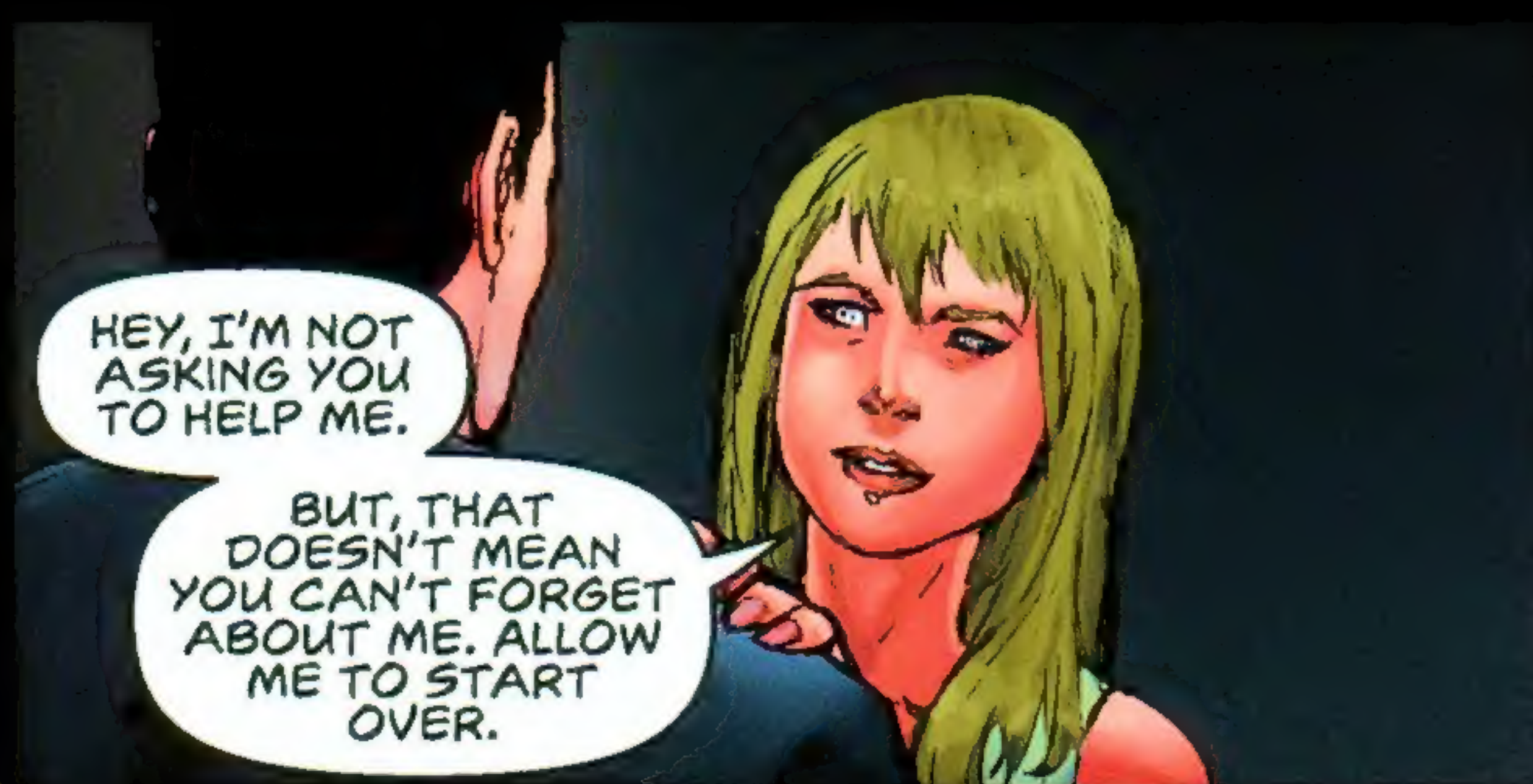


I CAN ONLY HELP YOU IF YOU LET ME, LILY. THAT MEANS TRUSTING THE AGENCY AS WELL.

NO, IT MEANS TRUSTING YOU-- AND YOU ALONE.

-SIGH-

I CAN'T ABANDON MY LIFE TO SAVE YOURS. I'VE GIVEN MY LIFE TO THE AGENCY, AND ALMOST LOST IT A FEW TIMES IN THE PROCESS. I CAN'T JUST GIVE ALL THAT UP.



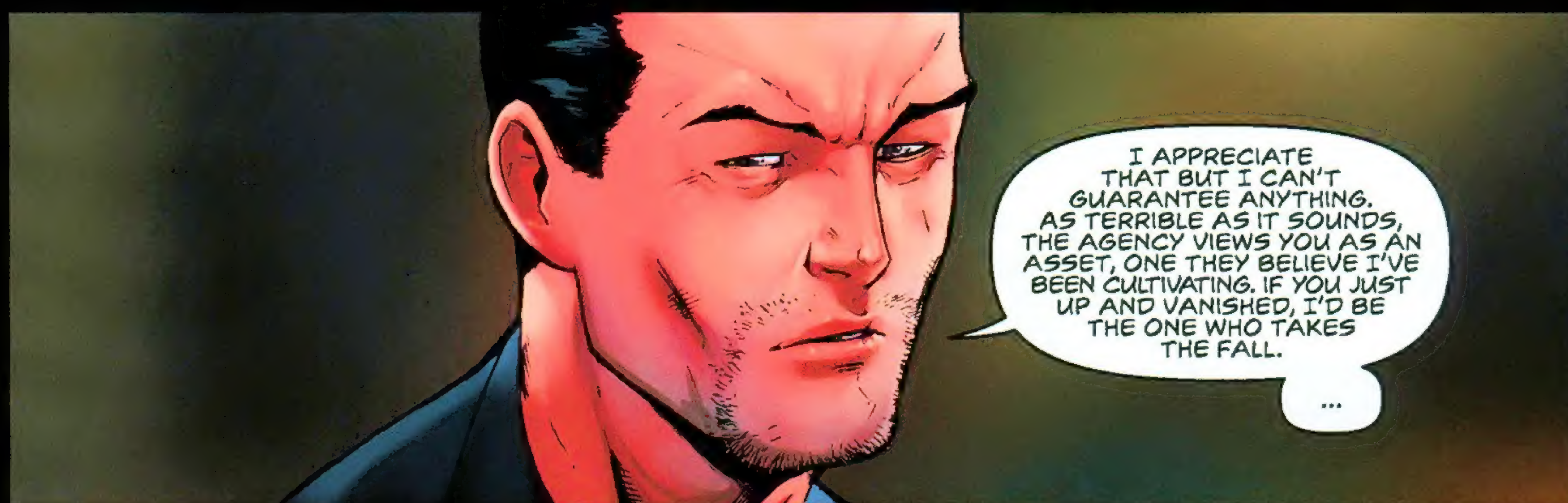
HEY, I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO HELP ME.

BUT, THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T FORGET ABOUT ME. ALLOW ME TO START OVER.



YOUR APOLOGY SOUNDS MORE LIKE A DEMAND.

IT'S A REQUEST.



I APPRECIATE THAT BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING. AS TERRIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, THE AGENCY VIEWS YOU AS AN ASSET, ONE THEY BELIEVE I'VE BEEN CULTIVATING. IF YOU JUST UP AND VANISHED, I'D BE THE ONE WHO TAKES THE FALL.

...



F*CK IT.

I'LL DO IT-- BUT ONLY IF YOU PROMISE ME YOU WON'T END UP BACK ON THE STREETS.

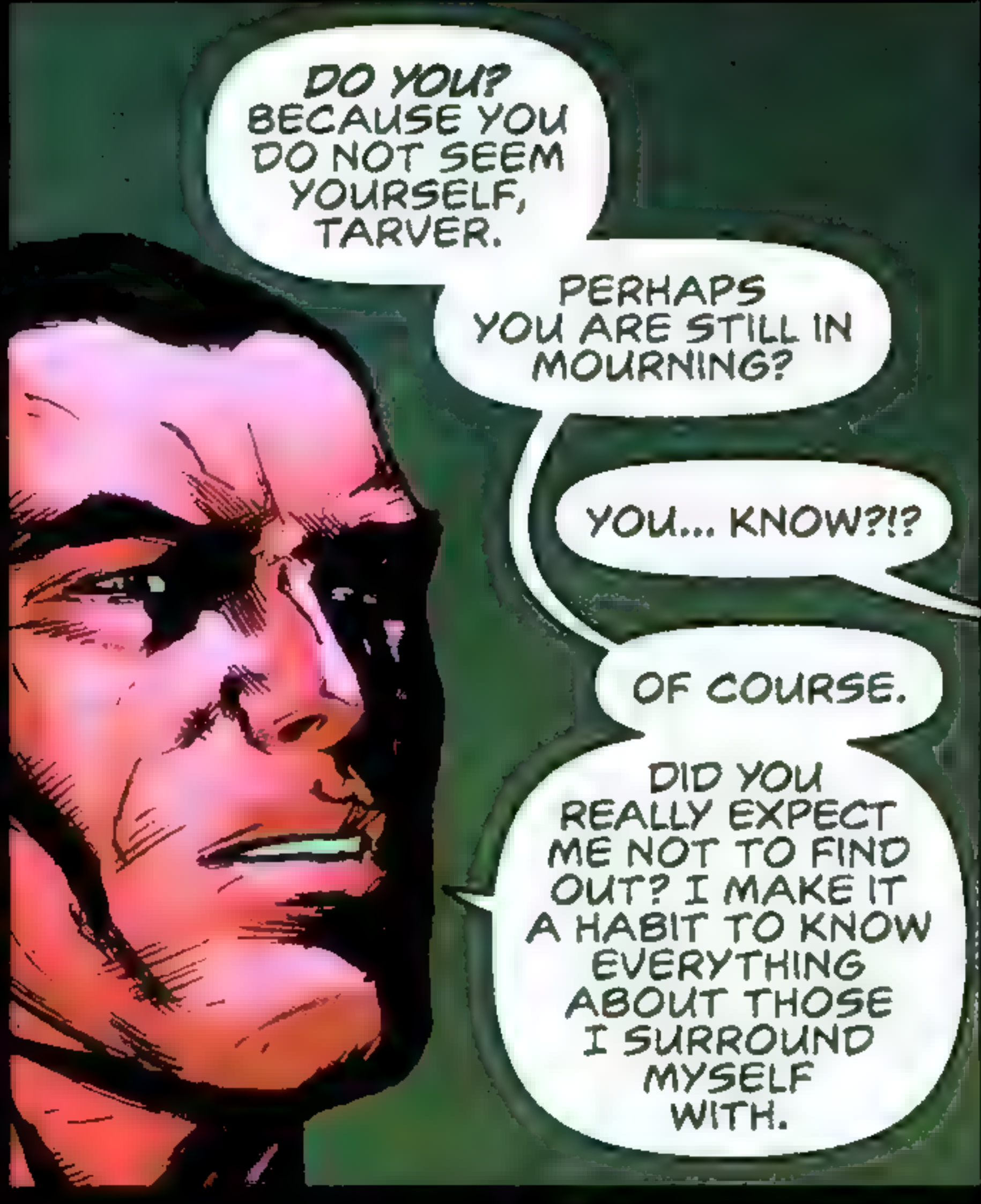


DEAL.



WE HAVE HER LOCATION. MY SOURCES IN THE AGENCY CONFIRM IT. YOU ARE TO SEE TO IT-- PREFERABLY BETTER THAN KAITO. YOU ARE TO TAKE THE PROTOTYPE WEAPON. IT IS READY. UNDERSTOOD?

UNDERSTOOD.



DO YOU? BECAUSE YOU DO NOT SEEM YOURSELF, TARVER.

PERHAPS YOU ARE STILL IN MOURNING?

YOU... KNOW?!?

OF COURSE.

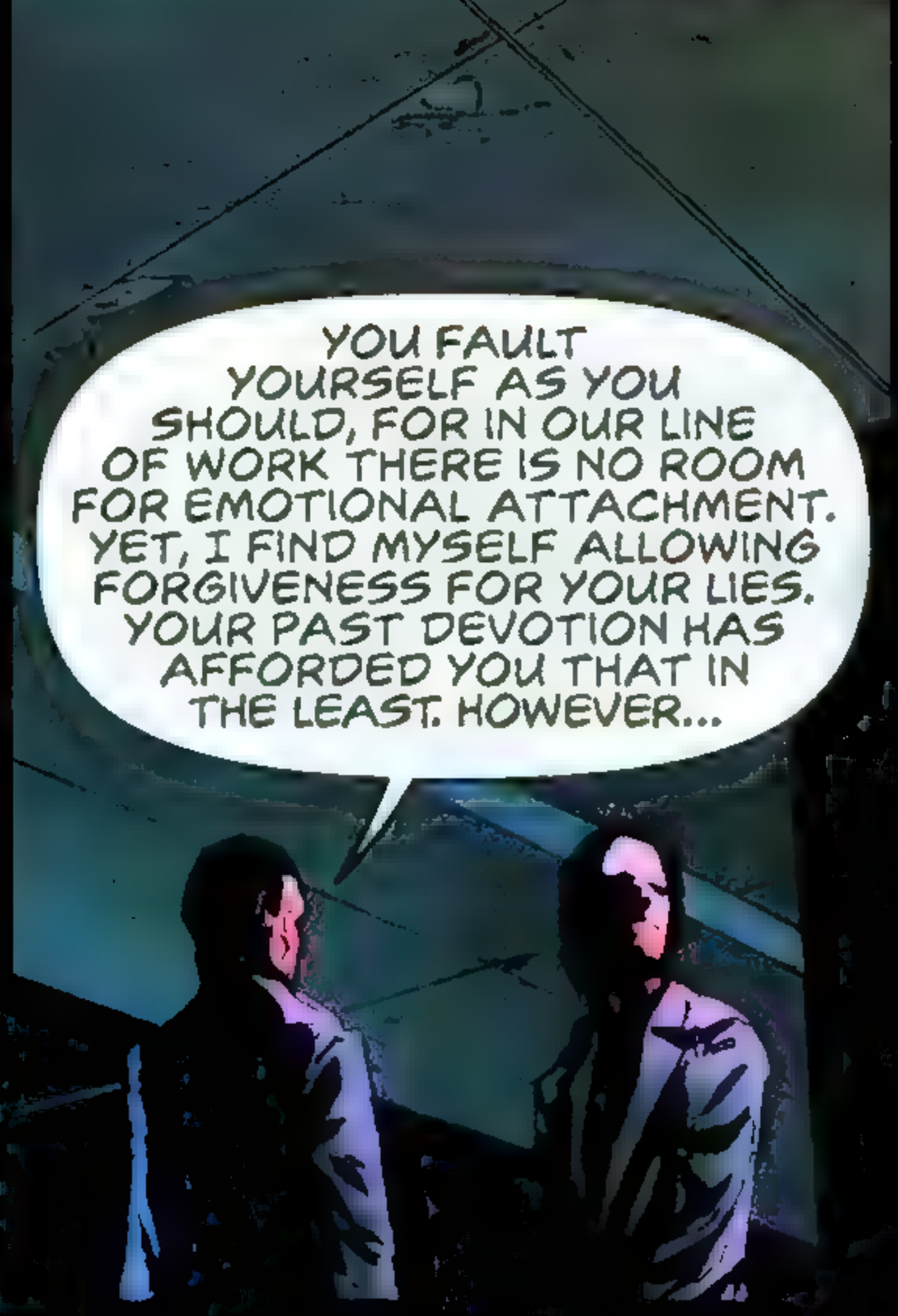
DID YOU REALLY EXPECT ME NOT TO FIND OUT? I MAKE IT A HABIT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THOSE I SURROUND MYSELF WITH.



AND YOU ARE MY MOST TRUSTED ADVISOR.

APOLOGIES MAZUTSU. I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT BETTER OF IT--

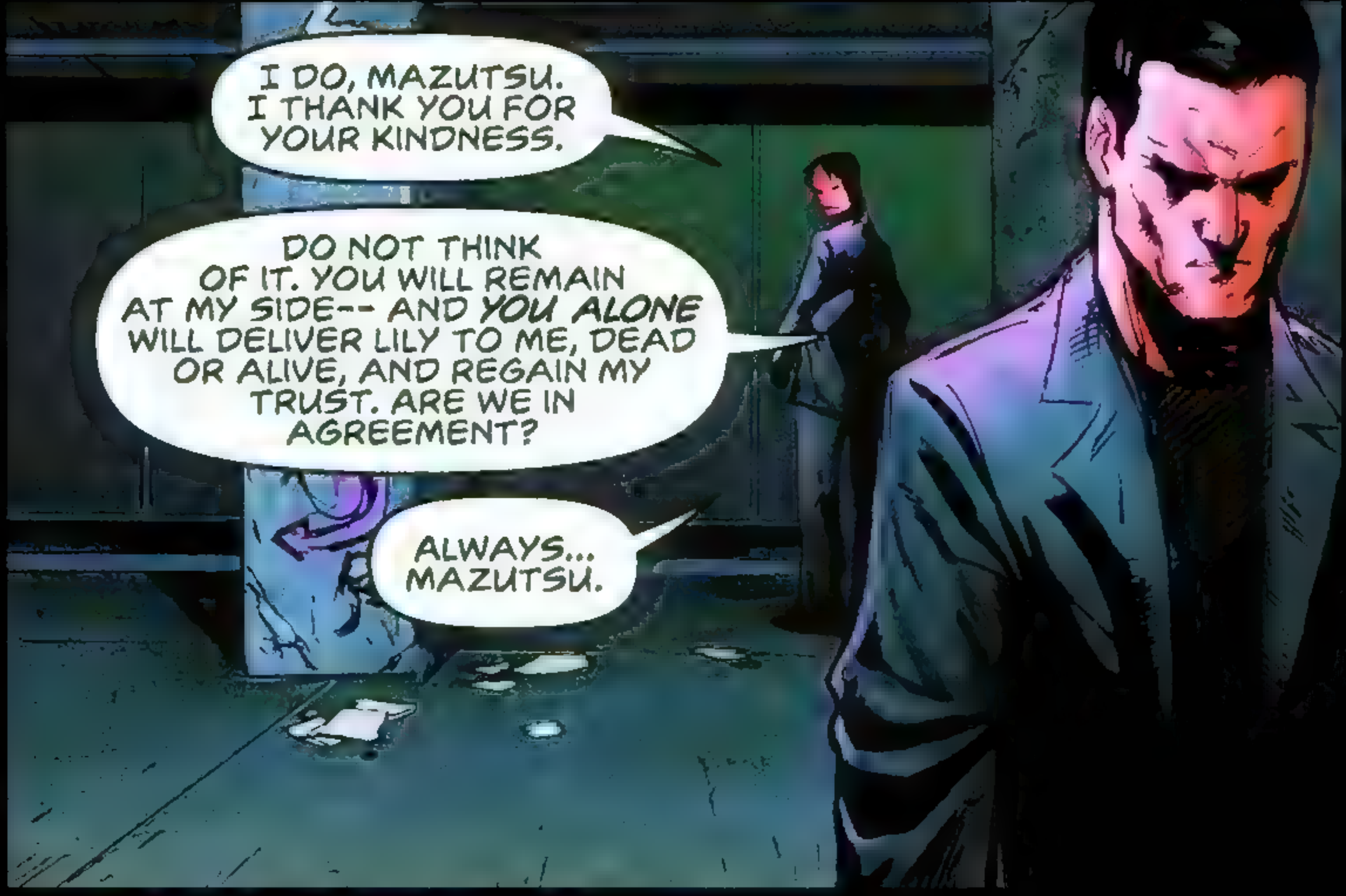
--ALL OF IT.



YOU FAULT YOURSELF AS YOU SHOULD, FOR IN OUR LINE OF WORK THERE IS NO ROOM FOR EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT. YET, I FIND MYSELF ALLOWING FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR LIES. YOUR PAST DEVOTION HAS AFFORDED YOU THAT IN THE LEAST. HOWEVER...



...KEEP SECRETS FROM ME AGAIN AND MY MERCY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO YOU, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



I DO, MAZUTSU. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

DO NOT THINK OF IT. YOU WILL REMAIN AT MY SIDE-- AND YOU ALONE WILL DELIVER LILY TO ME, DEAD OR ALIVE, AND REGAIN MY TRUST. ARE WE IN AGREEMENT?

ALWAYS... MAZUTSU.



Y'KNOW,
I'M GONNA MISS
THIS P.O.S.

I'M NOT. I'D
RATHER BE IN THE
GAME AGAIN.



GOING ROGUE.
HELPING AN 'ASSET'
ESCAPE. I'D SAY THE
GAME IS ABOUT TO GET
MUCH MORE DIFFICULT
FOR YOU GOING
FORWARD.

I'LL GET
BY. IT'S WHAT
I DO.

JUST DON'T
MAKE ME REGRET
IT. I'M PUTTING MY ASS
OUT THERE TO GIVE YOU
A CHANCE AT A NEW
BEGINNING.

SEE THAT YOU
FOLLOW THROUGH
ON YOUR END OF
THE BARGAIN.

YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO WOR--



COPE!

NNNGH!

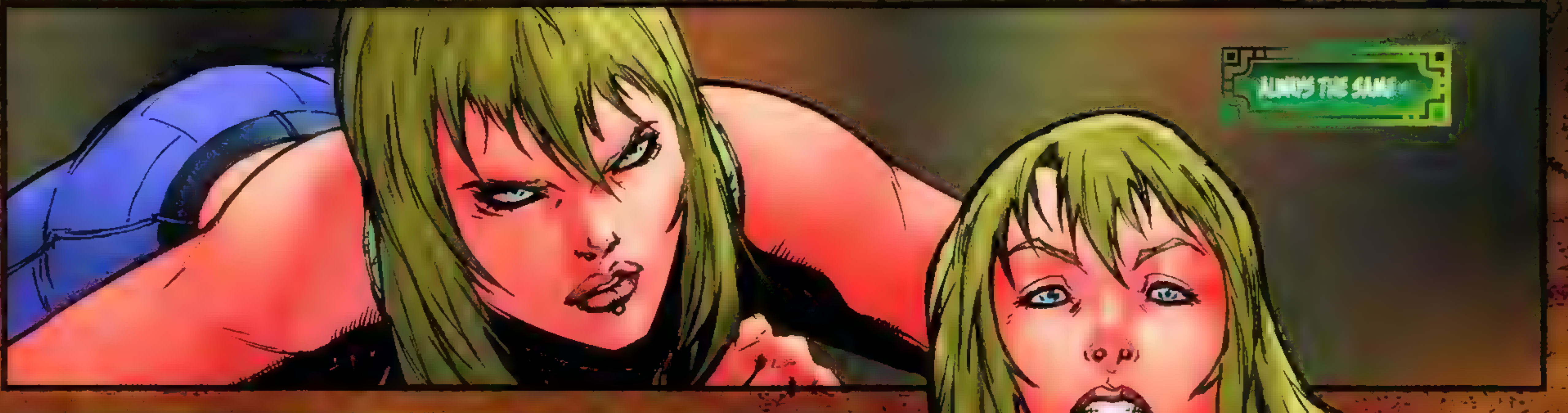
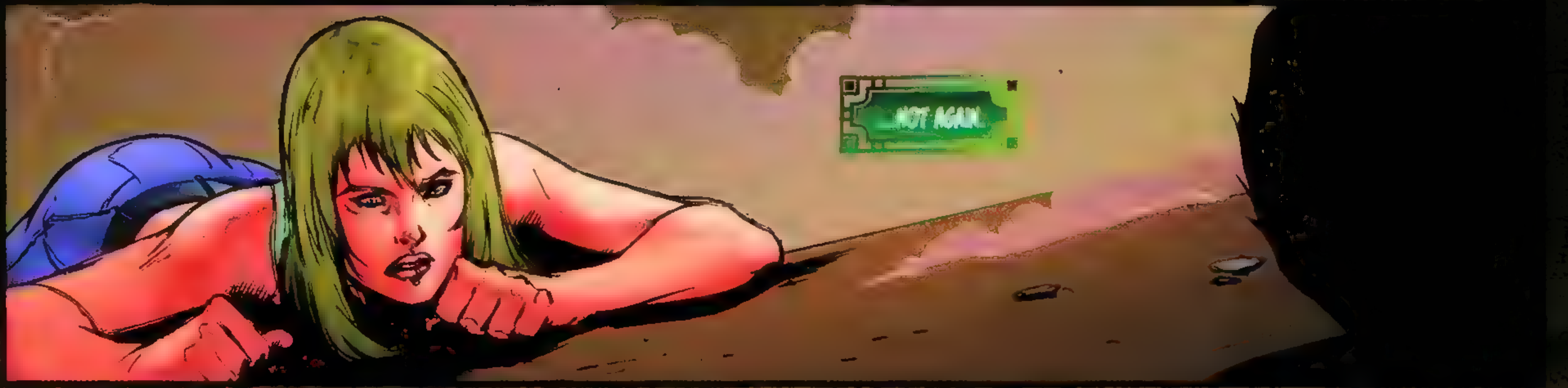
KRSHH



THUD



COPE, YOU
TRAITOR. ONE
DOWN.





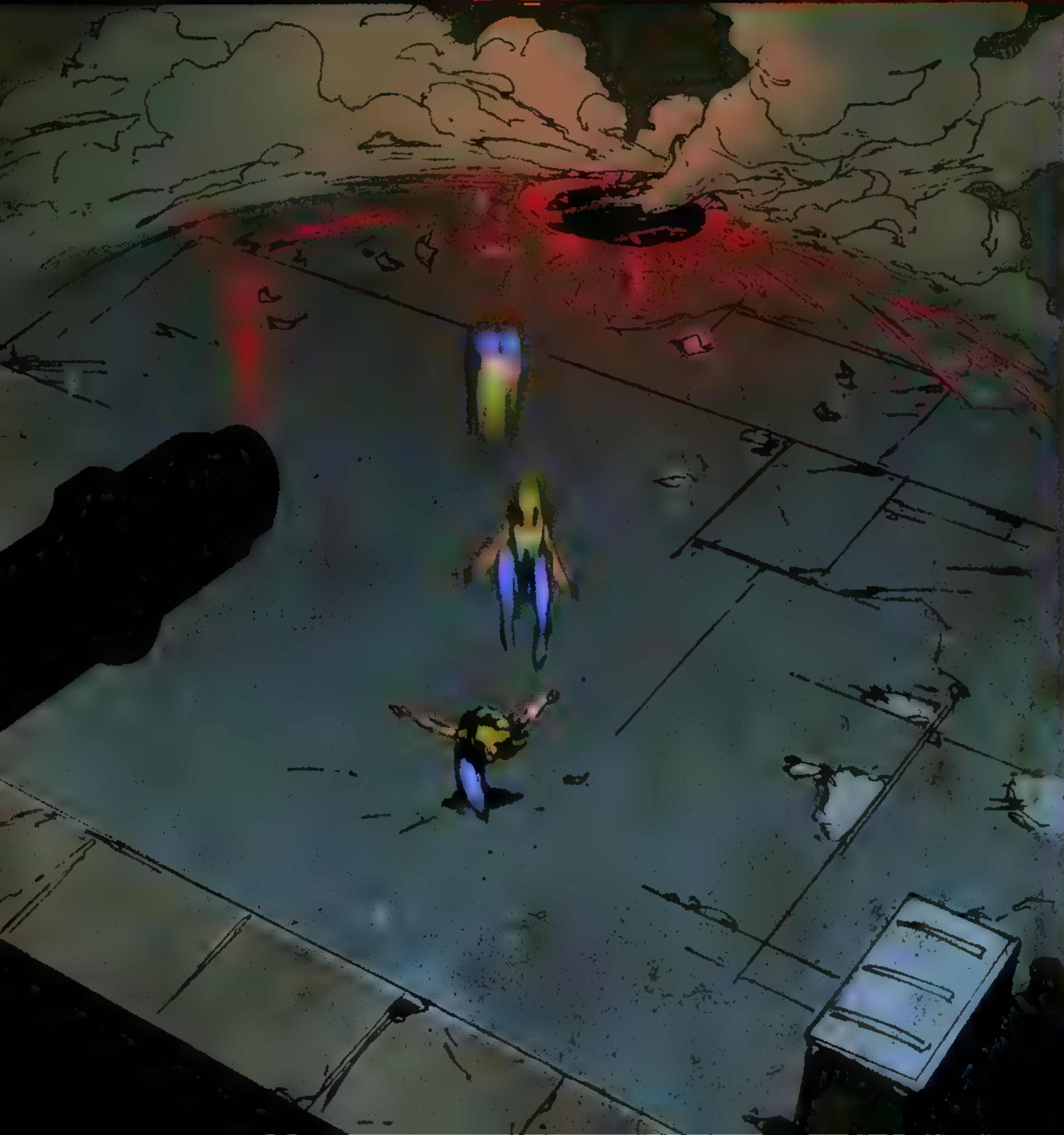


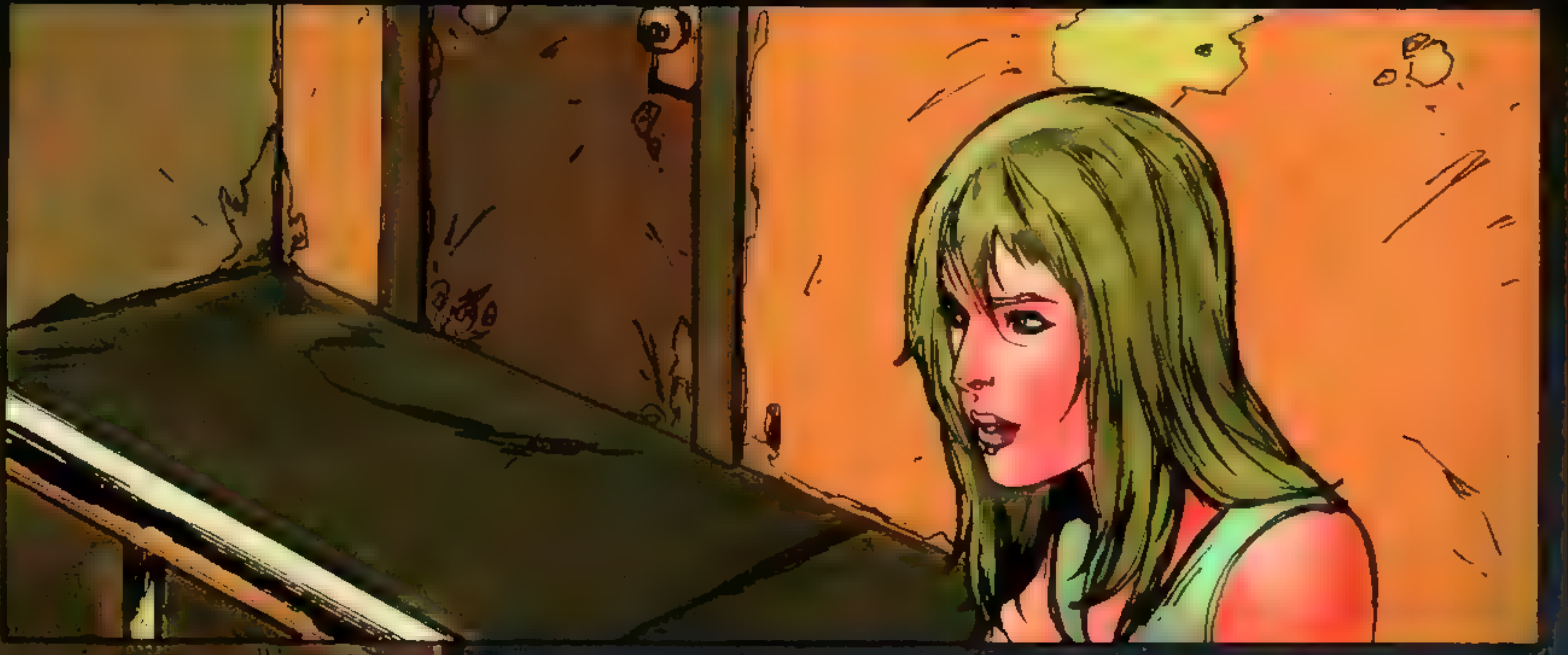


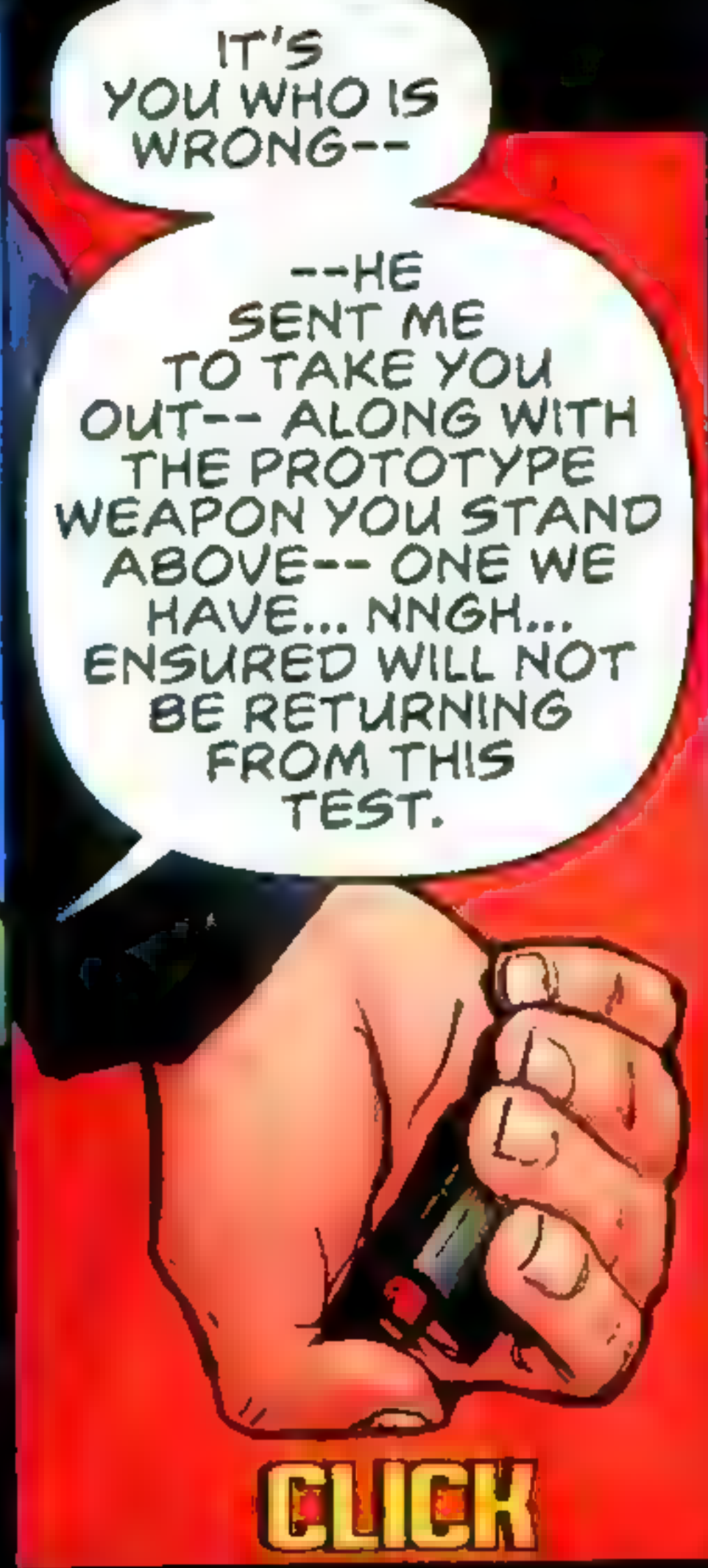
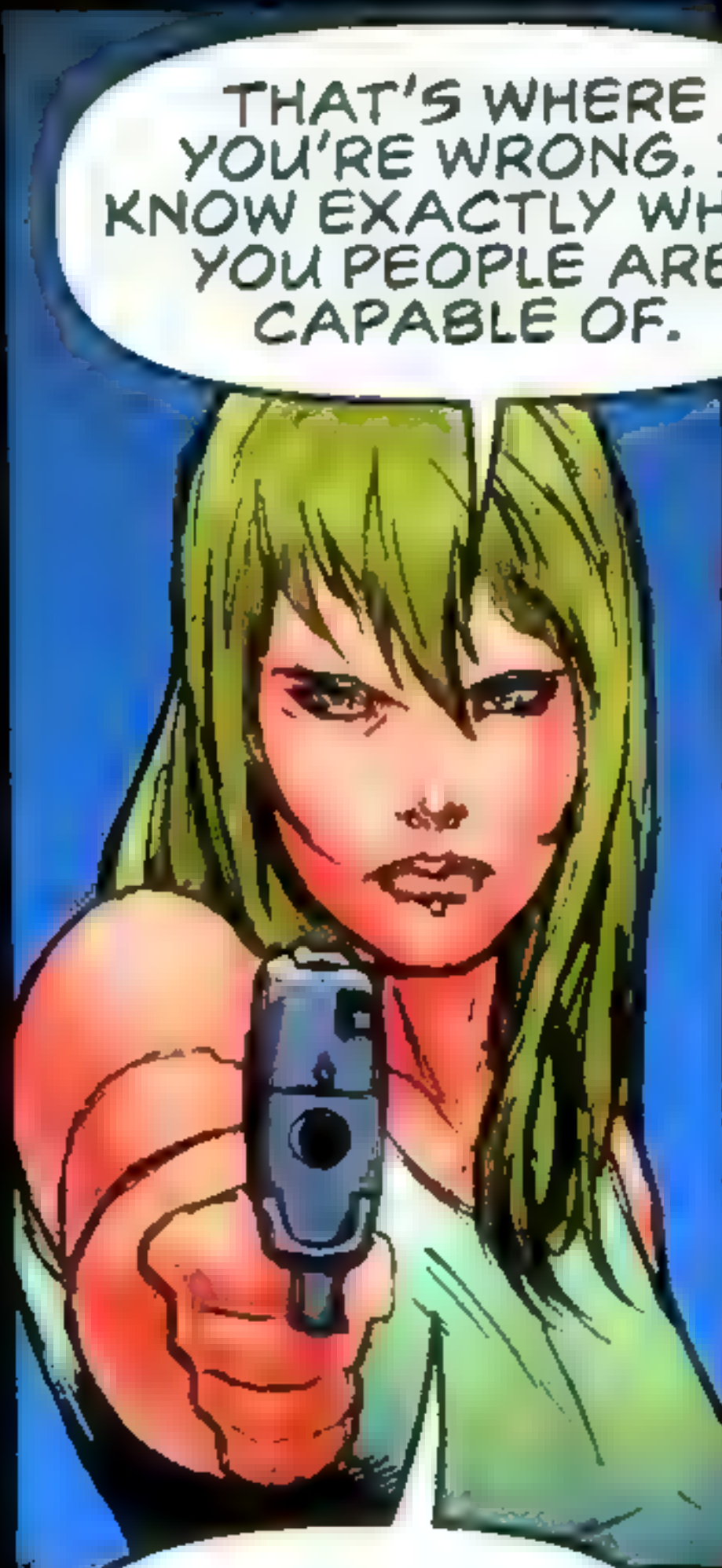
THE SHOOTER'S ON THE ROOFTOP. I NEED TO GET UP THERE— AND QUICK.



BUT, FIRST, I NEED TO SURVIVE DOWN HERE. LUCKILY, I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER THANKS TO THE DETON. THANKS TO COPE.









AHHHHH!

KABOOOM

UNNGH!

NO YOU DON'T!

COUGH, COUGH

THUD

AGHH!

CRACK

FWAP

THUMP



PTU!!

YOU THINK...
NGGH... THIS IS
GONNA STOP HIM?
HE WILL NEVER STOP.
YOU KNOW TOO
MUCH. HE WILL
NEVER CEASE.

YOU KNOW, I
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
TAKEO WORKED FOR
THE C.I.A. BEFORE
COPE TOLD ME,
YOU IDIOTS.

DOESN'T...
MATTER NOW. HE
WILL NEVER STOP
UNTIL EVERY TRACE
OF TAKEO IS
RIDDEN.

YOU CAN DEFEAT
ME. KILL ME EVEN. I
HAVE NOTHING TO
LIVE FOR ANYMORE,
REGARDLESS.

...HE WILL
BE YOUR END,
ASSASSIN.

LET
US FINISH
THIS.

I WILL SEE
YOU SOON,
HITOMI.

BUT,
MAZUTSU...

THUNK

MORE BLOOD. I GUESS I JUST CAN'T
ESCAPE IT. NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO
REFORM, TO BE A BETTER PERSON, DEATH
IS ALWAYS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

IT'S AN INEVITABILITY.

IT'S WHAT DRIVES
ME. A DESTINY I
CAN'T ESCAPE.

AND SOON...
VERY SOON.

...MAZITSU
WILL SHARE THE
SAME FATE.

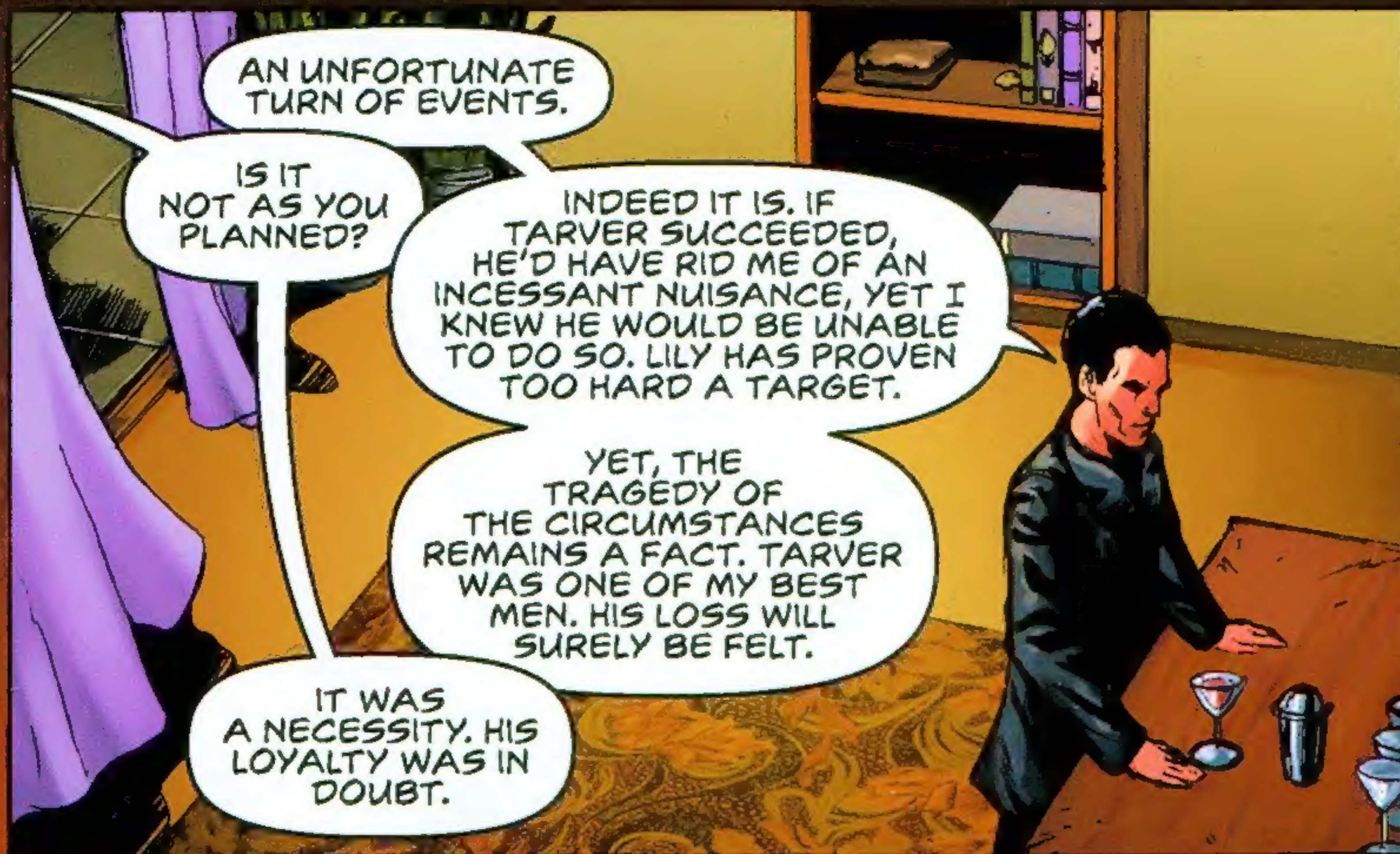


TARVER'S REMAINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THE CITY MORGUE, SIR.



THANK YOU, YOU MAY SEE YOURSELF OUT.

SIR.



AN UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.

IS IT NOT AS YOU PLANNED?

INDEED IT IS. IF TARVER SUCCEEDED, HE'D HAVE RID ME OF AN INCESSANT NUISANCE, YET I KNEW HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO DO SO. LILY HAS PROVEN TOO HARD A TARGET.

YET, THE TRAGEDY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES REMAINS A FACT. TARVER WAS ONE OF MY BEST MEN. HIS LOSS WILL SURELY BE FELT.

IT WAS A NECESSITY. HIS LOYALTY WAS IN DOUBT.



IT WAS NOT IN DOUBT. IT WAS **CERTAIN**. HIS PRIVATE LIFE, HIS FAMILY-- HIS SECRETS-- MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEVOTE TRUST IN HIM.

I THOUGHT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ACADEMY WOULD STEEL HIS NERVES, BUT I ADMIT TO MY MISCALCULATION OF HIS LOYALTY.

YOUR MISSION WAS UNAVOIDABLE. THEY HAD TO BE ELIMINATED AND SO DID HE. YOU ACCOMPLISHED THE TASK WELL...

...LILAC.

WITH PLEASURE,
MASTER.

YOUR
NEXT MISSION
IS CLEAR?

OF COURSE.

LILY WILL
SOON FOLLOW
HIM TO THE
AFTERLIFE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ASSASSINS #6: "EXECUTIVE
EXTINCTION" PART 1.

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: **David Wohl** (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and **Michael Turner** (Fathom, Soulfire)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS #4

COVERS BY
ARTISTIC ASSASSINS
SIYA OUM AND
GIUSEPPE CAFARO

*Introducing
Sophora*

**Aspen's First Ever
Ongoing Series Continues!**

WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS BY: LORI HANSON

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**LOST
AT SEA
PART 1 OF 2**



**CAFARO
COVER B**



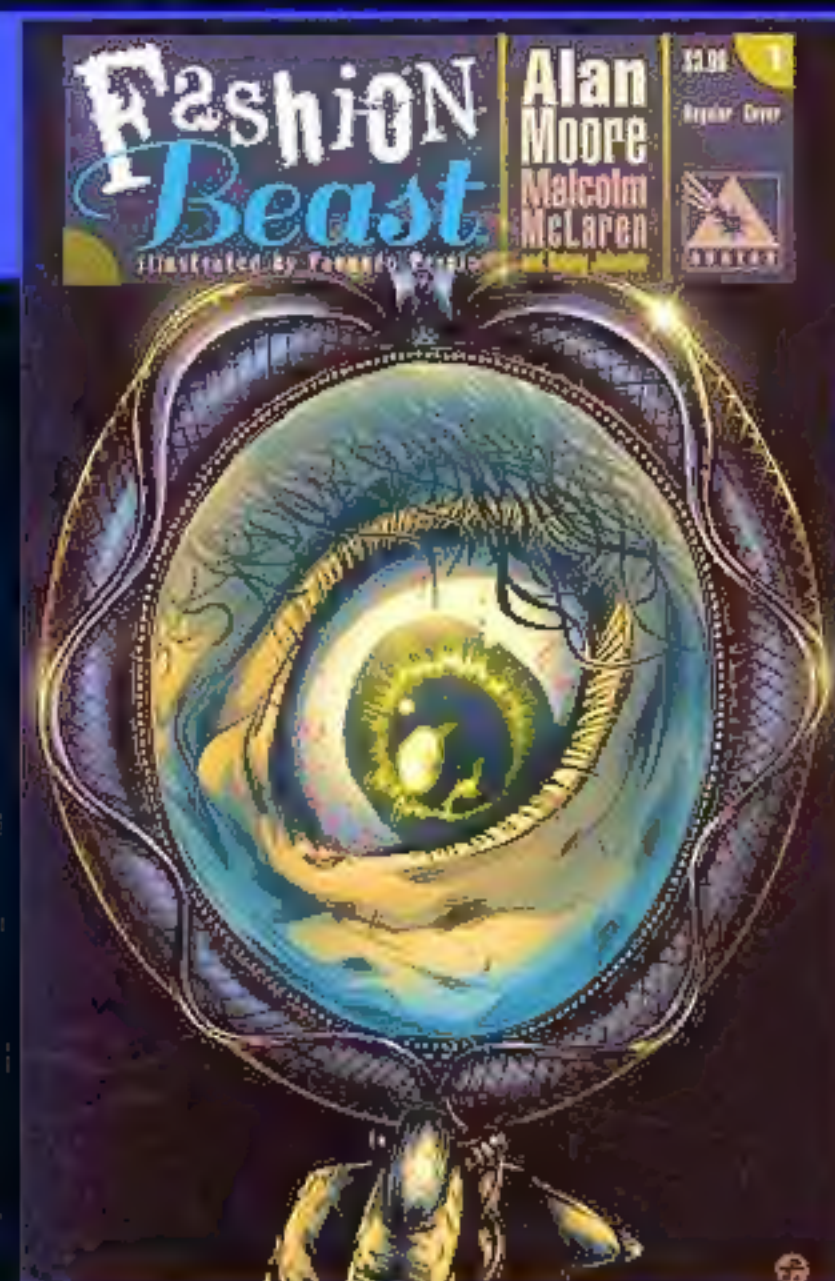
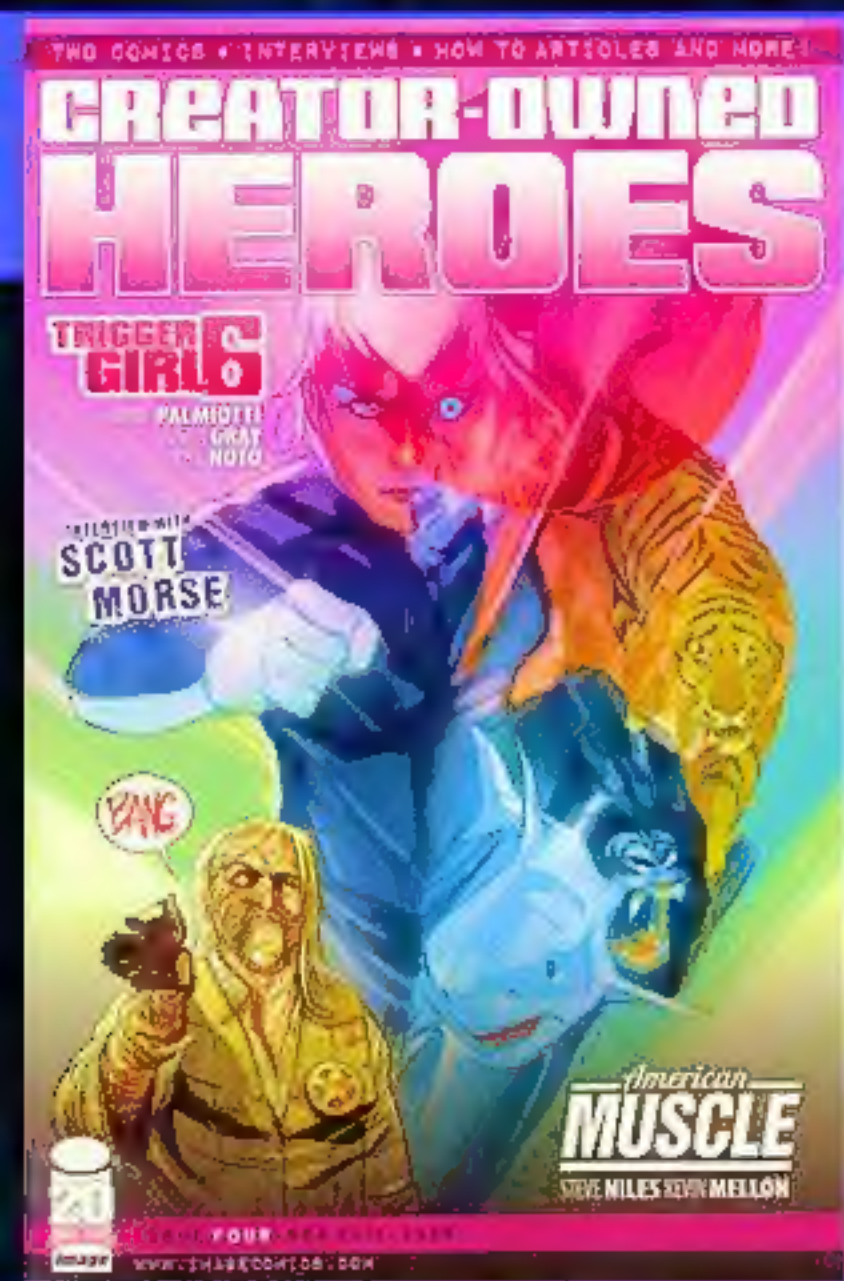
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Jarutaru September

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5



Creator Owned
Heroes 4

Mind the Gap 4

Fashion Beast 1

12

Darkness 106

Orchid 9

Avengers Vs
X-Men 11



19

Artifacts 21

Hack Slash 18

Vescell 8

26

Mind MGMT 5

Debris 3

Prophet 29

